

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 14673 161734Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 PRS-01 INR-07

/042 W

----- 017896

P 161720Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5565

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O N D O N 1 4 6 7 3

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, PO. UK

SUBJECT: KATYN FOREST MEMORIAL

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, "KATYN MEMORIAL FUND" HAS ERECTED IN LONDON'S GUNNERSBURY CEMETERY A MONUMENT TO THE VICTIMS OF THE KATYN FOREST MASSACRE. UNVEILING OF MONUMENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 18, AND ORGANIZERS HAVE INVITED MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF HMG.

2. BOTH FCO AND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (MOD) HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT SINCE MONUMENT BEARS DATE 1940, IT INDICATES THAT SOVIETS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSACRE. AS HMG HAS NEVER TAKEN A POSITION ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR MASSACRE, "HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED" AT UNVEILING. MOD HAS FURTHER ORDERED THAT NO SERVING OFFICERS ATTEND CEREMONY IN UNIFORM.

3. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD INITIALLY DECLINED INVITATION TO CEREMONY AFTER CONSULTATION WITH FCO AND MOD, WE HAVE SINCE ACCEPTED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT AND TOLD ORGANIZERS THAT FSR LEWIS DALE, AMBASSADOR'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT, WOULD ATTEND. INFORMALLY, WE SIMULTANEOUSLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 14673 161734Z

ADVISED FCO OF OUR INTENTIONS.

4. HMG HAS COME UNDER PUBLIC ATTACK FOR "BOYCOTT" OF CEREMONY. AND PRESS IS DISPLAYING LIVELY INTEREST IN ENTIRE STORY. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES, WE HAVE SAID ONLY THAT OUR REPRESENTATION AT UNVEILING IS INTENDED AS A MARK OF HOMAGE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE MASSACRE AND A TOKEN OF RESPECT TO THOSE WHO HAVE ERECTED THE MONUMENT TO THEM. WE HAVE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY COMMENT ON USG VIEWS REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MASSACRE.

5. THIS RESTRICTED PRESS LINE HAS NOT, HOWEVER, PREVENTED CEREMONY ORGANIZERS FROM MAKING PUBLIC THEIR OWN INTERPRETATIONS OF USG PRESENCE. "EVENING STANDARD" OF SEPTEMBER 16, FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIES STORY HEADLINED, "KATYN MASSACRE GETS ITS MONUMENT AT LAST," UNDER EYEBROW, "POLES JUBILANT AS U.S. SENDS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CEREMONY." STORY QUOTES KATYN MEMORIAL FUND HONORARY SECRETARY LOUIS FITZGIBBON AS SAYING "THE FACT THAT HE (I.E., DALE) IS COMING MEANS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT APPROVES OF WHAT WE ARE DOING."

6. SHOULD HE BE TARGET OF ANY QUESTIONS AT CEREMONY, DALE WILL STICK TO PRESS LINE INDICATED IN PARA 4 ABOVE.

ARMSTRONG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MONUMENTS, CEMETERIES, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, MASSACRES, INVITATIONS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON14673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760349-0995
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760954/aaaabtwj.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KATYN FOREST MEMORIAL
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, PO, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006